November 8, 1999

Provider Notice 99-21

TO: Nursing Facilities

SUBJECT: Therapeutic Leave Policy

The Alabama Medicaid Agency has amended its policy regarding Therapeutic Leave found in Chapter 10, Rule No. 560-X-10-.05(1)(b) of the Alabama Medicaid Administrative Code, effective October 12, 1999. The revision of this policy clarifies the limits of therapeutic leave from a nursing facility, and makes it consistent with system edits. Please share this information with appropriate staff.

Rule No. 560-X-10-.05(1)(b) reads as follows: "Reservation of beds. Payments to nursing facilities will be made for therapeutic visits not to exceed three days per visit and eight such visits per patient during any calendar year; limited to two visits per calendar quarter to home, relatives and friends."

The <u>attached revised Form 154</u>, which notes the amended policy, must be completed on all current resident and new admissions annually thereafter.

Providers with questions regarding this notice should contact the Long Term Care Provider Recipient Management Unit at (334) 242-5577.

signed: W. Dale Walley, Acting Commissioner

Distribution:

Alabama Nursing Home Association Alabama Medicaid Agency Staff Electronic Data Systems (EDS)

REMINDER: ALL MEDICAID RECIPIENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT PROPER IDENTIFICATION TO A PROVIDER OF MEDICAL CARE OR SERVICES. PROVIDERS MUST VERIFY ELIGIBILITY BEFORE PROVIDING TREATMENT OR SERVICE UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.

AVRS: 1-800-727-7848 MEDICAID FRAUD HOTLINE: 1-800-824-

6584